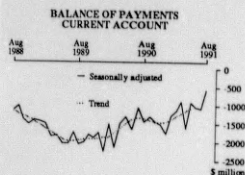


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 3 October 1991

The week in statistics ...

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Current account deficit slashed by record trade surplus

The seasonally adjusted current account deficit for August 1991 fell \$509 million to \$575 million. This was the lowest deficit since January 1988 and the second smallest deficit since April 1984.

The fall in the deficit was due to an increase in the surplus on goods and services, which rose from \$55 million in July to a record \$696 million in August.

The merchandise trade surplus rose \$585 million to \$950 million. Merchandise exports rose 1 per cent to \$4,665 million, the highest monthly result on record. Merchandise imports fell 12 per cent, to \$3,715 million, the lowest result since September 1988.

The net services deficit fell 18 per cent to \$254 million, but the net income deficit rose 12 per cent to \$1,476 million, with the major movements in both credits (down 19 per cent) and debits (up 4 per cent) being in the official sector. The net unrequited transfers surplus rose 13 per cent to \$205 million.

**BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
CURRENT ACCOUNT**
\$ million

	July 1991		August 1991	
	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted
Balance on merchandise trade	14	365	622	950
Net services	- 449	- 310	- 318	- 254
Net income	- 1,303	- 1,320	- 1,467	- 1,476
Net unrequited transfers	207	181	238	205
<i>Balance on current account</i>	<i>- 1,531</i>	<i>- 1,084</i>	<i>- 925</i>	<i>- 575</i>

In original terms, merchandise exports rose slightly to \$4,601 million. Non-rural exports rose \$126 million or 4 per cent. The largest rises were recorded in gold, up \$146 million or 54 per cent, due to higher volumes; 'other' manufactures, up \$61 million or 16 per cent; and, 'other' non-rural, up \$51 million or 86 per cent. The largest fall was recorded in transport equipment, down \$138 million, or 47 per cent. There were no exports of large aircraft in August compared with the export of two Qantas aircraft valued at \$120 million in July.

Rural exports fell \$111 million or 8 per cent. Falls in wool, cereals and meats totalling \$148 million were partly offset by a rise of \$34 million in sugar and a small rise in 'other' rural exports.

Merchandise imports fell \$593 million or 13 per cent. Falls were recorded for most commodity groups. The largest falls were recorded in 'other' transport equipment, down \$136 million or 64 per cent (due mainly to reduced imports of aircraft by residents other than major airline companies); machinery, down \$116 million or 9 per cent; and, road vehicles, down \$103 million or 25 per cent. The only rise was recorded in food, beverages and tobacco, up \$9 million or 5 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Balance of Payments, Australia* (5301.0), or contact Zia Abbasi on (06) 252 6689 or Neil Batty on (06) 252 5540.

Manufacturing prices stable

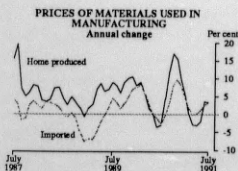
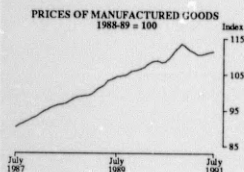
Prices of goods manufactured in Australia rose by a slight 0.2 per cent in July 1991. At the same time the index of prices of materials used by manufacturing industries showed no change.

On the manufacturing output side, small price increases were recorded for about one third of the items in the ABS index, with motor vehicles and refined petroleum products the main contributors. Those increases were partly offset by price falls for another third of the index items, the main decreases being for electronic equipment and refined alumina.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JULY 1991

Percentage change

Manufacturing sector	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Petroleum products	1.4	15.7
Chemicals products	-0.5	4.0
Transport equipment	1.3	3.9
Clothing and footwear	0.2	3.3
Fabricated metal products	-0.4	1.9
Food and beverages	0.3	1.4
Other industrial machinery	-0.7	1.3
Basic metal products	-0.4	-4.7
Total manufacturing	0.2	2.6

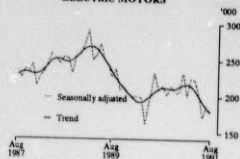


On the input side, higher prices for live animals and wheat were the main cause of a 0.3 per cent rise in the index of home produced materials. Those increases were offset by lower prices for domestic hardwood and softwood logs, milk, and crude petroleum, and a 0.5 per cent decline in the price index of imported materials.

As the table above shows, prices of manufactured goods rose by just 2.6 per cent in the year to July. Over the same period, the prices of both home produced and imported materials used in manufacturing increased by 3.4 per cent.

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia* (6412.0) and *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia* (6411.0), or contact Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

ELECTRIC MOTORS



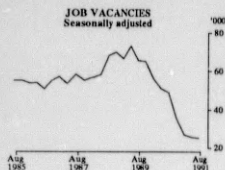
Manufacturing in August ...

The publication *Manufacturing Production, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0) contains up-to-date time series data on the production of twenty-seven major indicators of production (twenty-five seasonally adjusted). The indicator commodities have been selected to give a broad industry representation of the manufacturing sector and are part of a much larger range of commodity items published in the series of ten Manufacturing Production Bulletins.

In the table below, the 'previous year' column is a generally more reliable guide to trends, but should be read in conjunction with the more detailed data presented in the monthly publications, as the production of manufacturing commodities can vary quite significantly on a month-to-month basis, even after seasonal adjustment.

MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION
AUGUST 1991
Seasonally adjusted, percentage change

Product	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Chocolate based confectionery	28.4	19.8
Television sets	19.6	8.7
Woven man-made fibre fabric	9.6	6.6
Basic iron, spiegeleisen and sponge iron	7.9	6.4
Domestic refrigerators	0.0	5.1
Beer	3.4	2.4
Iron and steel ingots or in other primary forms	2.5	0.9
Wool yarn	0.1	-0.8
Woven wool fabric (including blanketing)	22.3	-0.9
Electricity	1.3	-1.0
Cotton yarn	-15.2	-1.6
Blooms and slabs, from rolling and forging	2.2	-2.7
Gas available for issue through mains	1.2	-4.0
Woven cotton fabric (including towelling)	-10.3	-6.7
Textile floor coverings	1.1	-9.4
Cigarettes and tobacco	18.8	-13.9
Domestic clothes washing machines	42.7	-13.9
Clay bricks	-0.7	-14.7
Portland cement	-5.3	-14.9
Other confectionery	-1.1	-15.0
Electric motors	-5.2	-16.9
Cars and station wagons	5.5	-19.2
Motor vehicles for goods and materials	-3.8	-28.4
Petrol-rotary type lawn mowers	-9.6	-31.4
Sulphuric acid; oleum	-18.5	-47.6



Job vacancy loss slows

The estimated number of job vacancies, seasonally adjusted, fell from 25,700 in May 1991 to 25,100 in August, the lowest estimate since the series was introduced in November 1983.

The 2.7 per cent decline between May and August was significantly lower than in the previous three periods. Vacancies fell by 25.2 per cent in the three months to November 1990, by a further 21.1 per cent to February 1991 and by another 8.0 per cent to May. The result of all the movements is that estimated vacancies in mid-August 1991 were 46.1 per cent below the estimate one year earlier.

Two broad movements of interest between May and August are shown in the original data presented below. In one, a quite sharp increase in private sector vacancies was offset by an equally sharp decline in public sector positions available.

In the other, note that estimated job vacancies increased in the three most populous States, while there were large percentage decreases in vacancies in Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. For all the States which recorded increased vacancies, it was the first such increase for at least a year — longer in the cases of Victoria and South Australia.

JOB VACANCIES

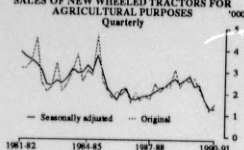
	At 17 May 1991 To nearest 100	At 16 August 1991 To nearest 100	Percentage change
Original —			
Private sector	14,400	16,200	12.6
Public sector	10,800	9,400	-12.5
All sectors	25,100	25,600	1.9
New South Wales	10,500	10,900	4.0
Victoria	3,800	4,100	7.0
Queensland	4,400	4,600	6.1
South Australia	1,500	2,000	33.1
Western Australia	2,100	1,500	-28.3
Tasmania	700	600	-23.6
Northern Territory	300	500	69.0
Australian Capital Territory	1,800	1,500	-20.6
Australia	25,100	25,600	1.9
Seasonally adjusted —			
Australia	25,700	25,100	-2.1

The job vacancy rate (vacancies as a proportion of the number of employees plus vacancies) rose marginally from 0.43 per cent in May to 0.44 per cent in August. It had stood at 0.84 per cent in August in 1990.

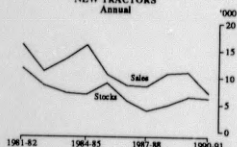
In seasonally adjusted terms, the percentage of employees working overtime fell 1.5 per cent and the estimate of average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime increased 1.2 per cent to 7.00 hours.

For further information, order the publication *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia* (6354.0), or contact Mick Atkinson (06) 252 6571.

SALES OF NEW WHEELED TRACTORS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES
Quarterly



NEW TRACTORS
Annual



Farm machinery sales stalled

Sales of new tractors for farm use fell to their lowest level for at least 36 years in the 1990-91 financial year. The slump was concentrated in the second half of the year, with seasonally adjusted March and June quarter sales reaching record low numbers of 1,306 and 1,295 respectively.

Total new tractor sales for the year were 7,122 units, the lowest level since these statistics were first collected in September 1955.

SALES AND STOCKS OF NEW TRACTORS
Number

Period	Sales	Stocks at end of period
1986-87	8,563	5,661
1987-88	8,370	3,839
1988-89	10,755	4,887
1989-90	11,008	6,394
1990-91	7,122	6,140

A similar pattern emerged in sales of other types of farm machinery, with the table below indicating the extent of the downward trend in the second half of 1990-91.

SALES OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY
1990-91

Type of machinery	July to December 1990 No.	January to June 1991 No.	Percentage change
Agricultural machinery —			
Tillage implements	5,248	5,871	11.9
Seeding and fertilising machinery	1,523	1,531	0.5
Harvesting, haymaking, machinery, etc	5,532	2,416	-56.3
Other agricultural machinery	1,309	1,197	-8.6
Construction machinery —			
Selected attachments	1,189	858	-27.8
Dozers	276	146	-47.1
Rippers	204	109	-46.6
Loader attachments for tractors	352	249	-29.3
Hydraulic backhoes	357	354	-0.8
Loaders	852	754	-11.58

These data are derived from a quarterly collection of statistics from tractor and other farm machinery distributors throughout Australia. They are not routinely published, but details, including component breakdowns for each of the categories of agricultural and construction machinery (such as that for 'Selected attachments' in the table above), are available from Chris Buchanan on (08) 237 7633.

Statistics Weekly

Synopsis of articles, September 1991

5 September 1991

Record exports fail to stop rise in current account deficit

The current account deficit for July 1991 rose \$63 million in seasonally adjusted terms, to \$1,079 million. Merchandise exports rose 2 per cent to \$4,604 million, the highest monthly result on record.

Housing approvals recovery gains momentum

Total dwelling unit approvals rose sharply by 17.8 per cent, in seasonally adjusted terms, between June and July 1991, with the private sector house component rising by 17.3 per cent.

Small increase in prices of manufactured goods

Prices of manufactured goods rose by 0.4 per cent in the month of June 1991. Small increases were recorded for about one third of the items in the index.

New motor vehicle registrations: trend up for second month

The trend estimate for new motor vehicle registrations showed a small increase of 0.3 per cent between June and July 1991 to 41,191 vehicles.

Stocks stable but manufacturers' sales are down again

The value of stocks held by private businesses remained virtually unchanged in the three months to 30 June 1991 after accounting for seasonal factors and price changes (i.e. at seasonally adjusted, constant prices). Manufacturers' sales in the June quarter fell 1.8 per cent.

12 September 1991

Production-based GDP spurred on by primary industries

Assisted by significant growth in primary industries, production-based gross domestic product (GDP(P)) grew by 0.3 per cent in the June quarter 1991.

Construction, real property slump leads commercial finance down

Commercial finance commitments made by significant lenders for the six months ending June 1991 totalled \$43,807 million, a decrease of \$4,014 million (8.4%) on the same period in 1990. Commitments for commercial construction were down by almost 50 per cent and commitments for the purchase of real property declined 29.3 per cent.

Large fall in import prices

The Import Price Index fell by 3.0 per cent in the June quarter 1991, the largest quarterly fall in the index since the September quarter 1988.

Wool receivals up after 10 year low

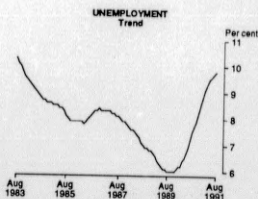
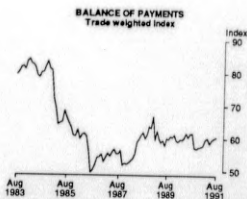
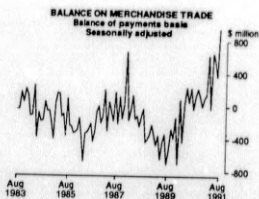
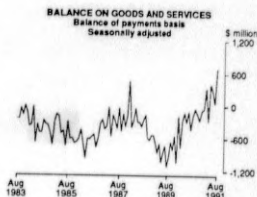
Receivals of taxable wool by brokers and dealers in July 1991 totalled 56,005 tonnes, a substantial increase on the abnormally low June figure of 28,093 tonnes, which was the lowest for the month of June in ten years.

A close look at our growing trade in services

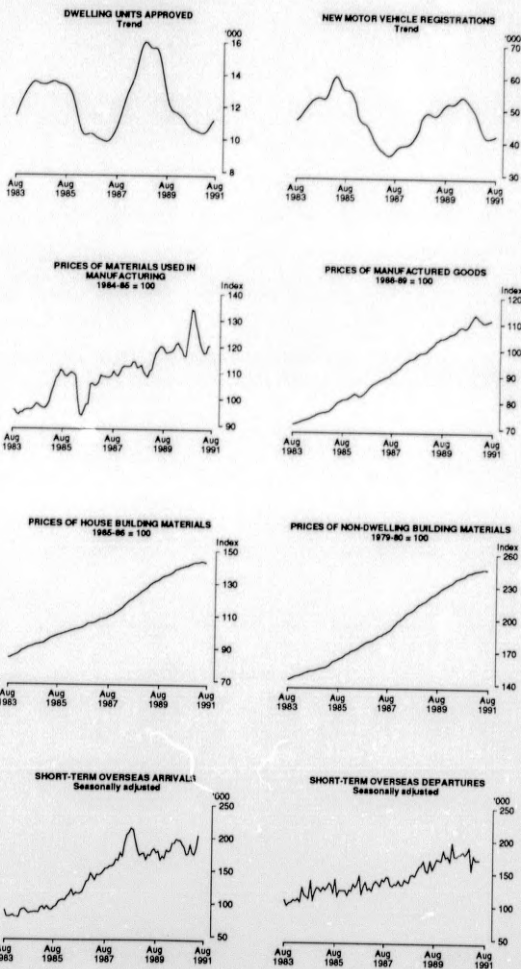
Australia's increasingly important trade in services with the rest of the world is measured and analysed in a major annual Australian Bureau of Statistics' publication now available.

Australian perspectives

Australian perspectives is an occasional series of selected graphs. The series displayed illustrate the latest published data as at August 1991.



Australian perspectives - continued



Synopsis of articles, September 1991 – *continued*

19 September 1991

Retail activity improves slightly

The trend estimates of turnover for retail and selected service establishments show a slight improvement. The increase over the 3 months ended July 1991 averaged 0.3 per cent per month.

Employment rises sharply in August

Strong rises in employment for males and females in August 1991 (seasonally adjusted) outweighed the large fall in employment recorded between June and July.

Average weekly earnings decline

Final estimates for May 1991 show a decrease in average weekly ordinary time earnings of 0.6 per cent for full-time adults to \$560.80, down from \$564.20 in February 1991.

Housing starts show modest improvement in June quarter

Total dwelling unit commencements increased in the June quarter 1991 following falls in the previous three quarters.

Established house prices rise but new homes get cheaper

Prices of established houses increased in all capital cities except Adelaide and Perth between the March and June 1991 quarters, with a rise of 1.2 per cent in the Australian index for established house prices over that period. The Australian index for project home prices fell by 0.6 per cent over the same period.

26 September 1991

Industrial production steadies

Industrial production was steady in the June quarter 1991 in seasonally adjusted constant price terms, following moderate falls in the preceding four quarters.

Towards a better educated nation

Forty-one per cent of the population aged 15 to 69 had at least one post-school qualification in February this year, according to the annual survey of educational attainment.

No change in export prices

Overall export prices remained unchanged between June and July 1991, with price rises and falls offsetting each other.

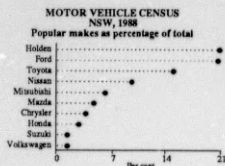
How healthy are Australians?

Results of the 1989-90 National Health Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate that eight out of ten adult Australians feel they are in good or excellent health.

TRANSTATS — first version released

TRANSTATS is a micro computer package of statistical information from the Motor Vehicle Census as at 30 September 1988. It provides a detailed account of the vehicles which were 'on register' with a State or Territory registration authority at that date.

The information includes the number of vehicles by vehicle type (e.g. car, rigid truck), make of vehicle, year of manufacture and postcode of registered owner. An example of the range of data available is given below.



MOTOR VEHICLE CENSUS, 1988

POSTCODE : 2170 — LIVERPOOL, NSW.

MAKE : HOLDEN

Year of manufacture	Cars and station-wagons	Utilities and vans	Other	Total
1969	373	37	0	410
1970	165	13	0	178
1971	218	15	4	237
1972	228	28	12	268
1973	306	31	28	365
1974	338	34	23	395
1975	360	51	27	438
1976	405	31	24	460
1977	379	33	25	437
1978	433	45	31	509
1979	596	38	17	651
1980	456	37	16	509
1981	431	31	9	471
1982	424	33	9	466
1983	322	38	10	370
1984	436	22	19	477
1985	423	32	3	458
1986	310	7	2	319
1987	309	2	2	313
1988	179	0	1	180
Not stated	49	4	4	57
Total	7,140	562	266	7,968

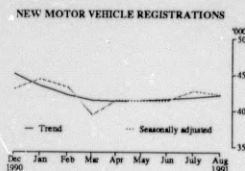
The data is presented in tabular format with graphing facilities available for the most popular makes of vehicles from any selected postcode, State or Territory. TRANSTATS information can be displayed on a computer screen, printed or written to a file in a form suitable for transfer to most popular spreadsheet packages, such as Lotus 1-2-3 or Multiplan.

The floppy disk package includes easy to use menu driven interrogation facilities and clearly written documentation to assist users.

This is the first issue of TRANSTATS and it is planned to follow it up with a release containing 1991 Motor Vehicle Census data. The cost of the package is \$1,000 for all States and Territories, or individual States for \$500 or \$300, depending on the size of the State.

For further information about, or a demonstration of TRANSTATS (9312.0), contact Bill Markham of the Economic Statistics Unit in the ABS Sydney Office on (02) 268 4619.

Fourth straight rise in vehicle registration trend



The August 1991 trend estimate for total new motor vehicle registrations rose 0.8 per cent to 42,167 vehicles (from 41,818 in July). This was the fourth consecutive rise in the trend estimate. Cars and station wagons increased by 1.2 per cent to 35,443 vehicles while 'other' vehicles fell by 1.0 per cent to 6,723 vehicles.

Seasonally adjusted total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 1.3 per cent to 42,227 vehicles in August 1991. This fall was due to a 14.1 per cent (1,024 vehicles) drop in 'other' vehicles, partially offset by a 1.3 per cent (478 vehicles) increase in cars and station wagons.

In unadjusted terms, August 1991 total new motor vehicle registrations fell by 8.6 per cent with cars and station wagons down by 5.5 per cent and 'other' vehicles down by 23.3 per cent.

The unadjusted figures provide some perspective for the differing performance of cars and station wagons and 'other' vehicles in August.

While registrations of cars and station wagons were down 5.5 per cent in unadjusted terms, total vehicle registrations were down 8.6 per cent because of significant falls in all categories of 'other' vehicles — namely utilities, panel vans, buses and rigid, articulated and non-freight carrying trucks.

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
AUGUST 1991

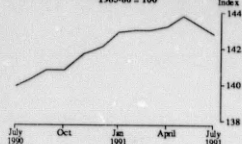
<i>Vehicle type</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage change from previous month</i>
Motor cars and station wagons	36,219	- 5.5
Utilities	3,736	- 25.8
Panel vans	1,130	- 22.0
Trucks	1,063	- 12.1
Buses	252	- 30.2
<i>Total (excluding motor cycles)</i>	<i>42,400</i>	<i>- 8.6</i>
Motor cycles	1,231	- 28.6

For further information, order the publication *Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia (9301.0)*, or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

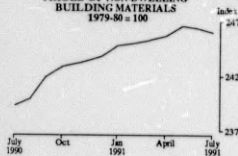
Building materials prices continue to decrease

Prices of building materials decreased for the second successive month in July 1991. For materials used in house building, prices decreased 0.3 per cent while for materials used in other than house building the decrease was 0.2 per cent.

PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



PRICES OF NON-DWELLING
BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



The annual rate of increase for materials used in house building was 2.1 per cent in July 1991 compared with 2.7 per cent in June 1991 and 6.1 per cent in July 1990. For materials used in other than house building the annual rate of increase was 2.8 per cent in July 1991, while in June 1991 it was 3.3 per cent and in July 1990, 6.7 per cent.

The main decreases in house building materials prices in July were for structural timber, cupboards, and reinforcing steel.

For materials used in building other than houses the main July decreases were for reinforcing steel bar, fabric and mesh, conductors, and suspended ceilings.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JULY 1991

City	Percentage change			
	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	-0.4	2.0	-0.6	3.4
Melbourne	0.0	1.4	0.1	2.7
Brisbane	-1.7	3.8	0.2	2.7
Adelaide	0.1	2.5	0.4	2.8
Perth	-0.3	1.2	-0.6	1.2
Hobart	-0.1	4.4	0.1	3.7
Weighted average of six State capitals	-0.3	2.1	-0.2	2.8
Darwin	— Not available —		0.2	4.9
Canberra	-0.1	3.7	-0.5	4.9

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0)*, or contact Mark Dickson (06) 252 6198.

This week in brief ...

☐ Cash management trusts

The weighted average net yield of Cash Management Trusts fell again in August 1991 to 9.4 per cent. By way of comparison the 90 day Bank bill rate increased to 10.2 per cent. Total assets of Cash Management trusts decreased by \$47.8 million to \$5,779.7 million.

Source: *Cash Management Trusts, Australia, August 1991 (5635.0)*.

☐ Unemployment

The number of persons reporting 'no vacancies at all' as their main difficulty in finding work, increased from 91,800 in July 1990 to 247,000 in June 1991. The percentage of unemployed persons experiencing this as the main difficulty in finding work doubled during this period.

Source: *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, June 1991 (6222.0)*.

Continued ...

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

✉ PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

☎ (06) 252 6627
FAX (06) 253 1404

ABS State Offices

☎ NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Robert Nixon
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Statistics Weekly
3 October 1991

□ Industrial disputes

In June 1991, there were 109 disputes in progress involving 283,800 employees and the loss of 310,000 working days. The number of disputes in progress decreased from 121 in May 1991. However, the number of employees involved and working days lost show significant increases from 194,500 and 211,600 respectively.

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia, June 1991* (6321.0).

All the week's releases: 25 September to 1 October

General

Publications Advice, 27 September 1991 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 1 October 1991 (1105.0; free)
Statistics Weekly, 26 September 1991 (1318.0; \$4.00)
Australian Economic Indicators, September 1991 (1350.0; \$24.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, NSW, September 1991 (1305.1; \$13.50)
Economic Indicators, NSW, September 1991 (1307.1; \$5.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Qld, September 1991 (1304.3; \$9.00)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, WA, September 1991 (1305.5; \$10.00)
Economic Indicators, WA, September 1991 (1307.5; \$5.50)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, SA, September 1991 (1303.4; \$9.00)

Demography

Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., May 1991 (3401.0; \$6.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Balance of Payments, Aust., August 1991 (5301.0; \$15.00)
Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, July 1991 (5432.0; \$9.00)
Cash Management Trusts, Aust., August 1991 (5635.0; \$4.50)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., August 1991 (6203.0; \$14.50)
Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Aust., June 1991 (6222.0; \$11.50)
Industrial Disputes, Aust., June 1991 (6321.0; \$7.00)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., August 1991 (6354.0; \$11.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1991 (6407.0; \$10.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1991 (6408.0; \$7.50)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., July 1991 (6411.0; \$10.00)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., July 1991 (6412.0; \$10.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust., August 1991, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, July 1991 (8360.0; \$10.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, June 1991 (8741.1; \$10.00)

Continued ...

Building Approvals, WA, August 1991 (8731.5; \$10.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, WA, July 1991 (8741.5; \$10.00)

Building Approvals, SA, August 1991 (8731.4; \$10.00)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, SA, July 1991 (8741.4; \$10.00)

Building Approvals, NT, August 1991 (8731.7; \$5.00)

Transport

Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Aust., August 1991, Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 15 October 1991

October

- 2** Building Approvals, Australia, August 1991 (8731.0; \$12.50)
- 3** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, July 1991 (5609.0; \$10.00)
- 10** The Labour Force, Australia, September 1991, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.00)
The Labour Force, Australia — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, September 1991 (6271.0; \$65.00)
- 11** Retail Trade, Australia, August 1991 (8501.0; \$10.00)

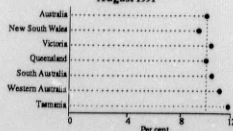
The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
1 October 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 91)*	-8.4	-22.7	0	-8.9	-7.0	-16.9	n.a.	n.a.	-10.2
Retail turnover (July 91) (trend estimate)	2.4	1.0	2.5	5.8	2.6	4.1	n.a.	8.4	2.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Aug. 91)† (a)	-3.1	-22.3	-11.2	-25.4	-15.3	-28.0	-27.9	19.3	-12.4
Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 91)	26.5	11.3	13.6	7.3	16.3	-6.3	66.7	77.6	17.3
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 91)	0.8	-30.2	-19.5	2.7	-23.2	-18.8	33.5	-4.2	-13.5
Employed persons (Aug. 91)*	-0.7	-4.9	-1.0	-3.4	-0.7	-1.9	7.7	2.3	-2.0
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 91)	2.8	4.1	3.4	4.7	2.2	3.8	4.1	3.2	3.4
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 91)	3.6	5.2	5.7	6.5	8.1	3.1	5.8	5.6	5.0
Population (Dec. 90)	1.1	1.3	2.3	1.1	2.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (Mar. qtr 91)	0.0	-1.9	-0.9	-6.4	-1.2	7.7	0.2	14.5	-0.5

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas, NT and ACT.
(a) Refer to footnote (f) on next page.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
August 1991



The latest ...

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Key national indicators – consolidated to 1 October 1991

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
National production							
Gross domestic product	-- current prices	\$m	June qtr 91	92,362	93,956	-1.2	-1.2
	-- 1984-85 prices			62,148	63,912	-1.0	-2.4
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	-- current prices	\$m	June qtr 91	6,304	6,011	-8.9	-13.4
	-- 1984-85 prices			4,808	4,577	-8.2	-13.4
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Six months to Dec. 91	12,756	n.a.		-18.5
Retail turnover	-- current prices	"	July 91	7,060.6	7,509.9	2.2	4.8
	-- 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 91	14,569.4	15,058.0	-1.0	-2.2
New motor vehicle registrations (f)		no.	August 91	42,400	42,227	-1.3	-12.4
Dwelling unit approvals (e)		"	July 91	12,740	12,024	17.8	13.5
Value of all building approvals (e)		\$m		1,907	1,989	16.9	11.5
Value of total building work done	-- current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	6,021	6,653	-5.1	-12.0
	-- 1984-85 prices	"		3,789	4,112	-6.9	-13.0
Manufacturers' sales	-- current prices	"	Mar. qtr 91	31,937	34,424	-1.9	-4.7
	-- 1984-85 prices	"		22,162	23,833	1.5	-7.0
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to June 91	34,850	n.a.	n.a.	-6.2
Labour							
Employed persons		'000	Aug. 91	7,669.2	7,728.6	-1.4	-2.0
Unemployment rate †		%	"	9.5	9.8	0.0	2.6
Participation rate †		"	"	62.7	63.4	0.8	-0.6
Job vacancies		'000	Aug. 91	25.6	25.1	-2.1	-46.9
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.07	1.11	-1.0	-12.2
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	June qtr 91	214.4	n.a.	0.1	3.4	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	July 91	120.4	n.a.	0.0	3.4	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	July 91	111.4	n.a.	0.2	2.6	
Company profits before income tax		\$m	June qtr 91	2,469	2,697	7.4	-23.1
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	May 91	560.80	n.a.	-0.6	5.0
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	July 91	10.10	n.a.	-0.40	-4.60	
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	11.00	n.a.	-0.15	-2.15	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise	\$m	August 91	4,601	4,665	1.4	13.6	
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,937.9	3,715	-12.3	-10.2	
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	622	950	160.3	n.a.	
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	304	696	1,165.5	n.a.	
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-925	-575	47.0	60.5	
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 91	n.a.	100.2	1.2	-5.2	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 June 91	130,314	n.a.	-2.4	2.9	
Net foreign liabilities			176,625	n.a.	1.6	6.6	
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
SUS	per \$A	August 91	0.7824	n.a.	1.5	-3.3	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 =100.0	"	60.4	n.a.	0.7	-1.6	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 91	17.3	n.a.	0.4	1.5	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	May 91	161	204	10.8	6.4	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 2 October 1991. (f) August 1991 is not strictly comparable with August 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 14). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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